

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, 9, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, and 11 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. Figures 1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, 9, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, and 11 have been amended. Appended to this amendment are annotated copies of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show the changes presented in the replacement sheets.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 1 is it has been relabeled FIG. 1a.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 1a is it has been relabeled FIG. 1b.

The specific changes which have been made to Fig. 3 are the left side figure has been relabeled FIG. 3a and the right side figure has been relabeled FIG. 3b.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 4 is it has been relabeled FIG. 4.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 5 is it has been relabeled FIG. 5.

The specific changes which have been made to Fig. 6 are that its portions a), b), c), d), e), f), and g) have been relabeled FIG. 6a, FIG. 6b, FIG. 6c, FIG. 6d, FIG. 6e, FIG. 6f, and FIG. 6g, respectively.

The specific changes which have been made to Fig. 7 are that its portions a), b), c), d), e), f), and g) have been relabeled FIG. 7a, FIG. 7b, FIG. 7c, FIG. 7d, FIG. 7e, FIG. 7f, and FIG. 7g, respectively, and rotated 90 degrees.

The specific changes which have been made to Fig. 8 are that its portions a), b), c), and d) have been relabeled FIG. 8a, FIG. 8b, FIG. 8c, and FIG. 8d, respectively.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 9 is it has been relabeled FIG. 9.

The specific changes which have been made to Fig. 10 are that its portions a), b), c), and d) have been relabeled FIG. 10a, FIG. 10b, FIG. 10c, and FIG. 10d, respectively.

The specific change which has been made to Fig. 11 is it has been relabeled FIG. 11.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 9-23 are now pending in this application.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims as well as indicating that claims 13-16 and 19-22 contain allowable matter.

Drawings

The Office Action states that the “formal drawings described in the Remarks section of the Preliminary Amendment of 5/10/06 have not been received.” A set of amended drawings is attached herewith.

Rejection of claims 9-11 and 17-18 based on Liu

Claims 9-11 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,135,555 (“Liu”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 9 (as amended) recites, among other things, a seat for a motor vehicle comprising: a seat part; a backrest part configured to fold relative to the seat part between a normal position and a folded position; and a lower seat structure, the seat part being configured to move relative to the lower seat structure. The seat part is connected to the lower seat structure via at least a front first fastening, a rear second fastening, and a diagonal fastening. The seat is configurable to adjust at least into an entry position and into a lowered position distinguishable from the normal position. The second fastening is configured to be released in the entry position. The diagonal fastening is configured to be released in the lowered position.

Liu does not teach or suggest the combination of features of claim 9. For example, Liu does not teach or suggest a seat part connected to the lower seat structure via at least a front first fastening, a rear second fastening, and a diagonal fastening. Indeed, Liu does not teach or suggest a seat part being connected to a lower seat structure by at least three fastenings. Liu merely discloses a lower seat 14 connected to a vehicle floor 20 by a front leg 16 and a rear leg 18, which, at best, can only be considered to be two fastenings. Also, neither the front leg nor the rear leg of Liu can be considered to be the diagonal fastening

connected to a lower seat structure. Because Liu does not teach or suggest a seat part connected to the lower seat structure via at least a front first fastening, a rear second fastening, and a diagonal fastening, claim 9 is allowable.

Claims 10-11 and 17-18 depend from and contain all the features of claim 9, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 9, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claim 12 based on Liu and Daniels

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Liu and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0195892 ("Daniels"). Claim 12 depends from and contains all the features of claim 9. As previously mentioned, Liu does not teach a seat for a motor vehicle with a seat part connected to the lower seat structure via at least a front first fastening, a rear second fastening, and a diagonal fastening. Daniels does not cure this deficiency. Because Liu and Daniels do not teach or suggest all the features of claim 9, claim 9 and its dependent claim 12 are allowable. For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 13-16 and 23

Claim 13 has been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 13 has been so rewritten. Claims 14-16 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 13.

Claim 23 depends from and contains all the features of claim 9, and is allowable for the same reasons as claim 9.

For at least this reason, allowance of claims 13-16 and 23 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By Matthew J. Kremer

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 295-4075
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Matthew J. Kremer
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 58,671